

January 15, 2021

Governor Tony Evers  
115 East State Capitol  
Madison WI 53702

Governor Evers,

We are deeply concerned by the lack of efficiency and transparency in your COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Each vaccine administered has the potential to save a life; yet there does not appear to be a clear plan, nor any urgency to create one from your administration.

CDC data continues to show Wisconsin lagging behind our Midwest neighbors for the vaccination rollout. Among states allocated between 360,000 and 460,000 doses, Wisconsin has the lowest administration rate both in the percentage of population covered and the portion of allocated vaccines administered. Providers have described contacting the Department of Health Services as “...like shouting into a well” and a “very bizarre, disorganized effort.” Even members of the State Disaster Medical Advisory Subcommittee on Vaccines have cited rollout concerns surrounding unused vaccines, vaccinators with hundreds of unfilled vaccination timeslots, and an unwillingness of vaccinators to share vaccines outside of their system. Yet despite these and other ongoing issues, you have doubled down on our current path stating “we believe we’re doing a pretty good job, frankly.” With all due respect, if this is your vision of a “pretty good job,” it is time to re-evaluate your standards for success.

The state has showed incredible variance in the daily vaccination numbers. For example, on January 1, only 110 vaccines were administered in the entire state of Wisconsin. Additionally, it appears that our state typically administers three times as many vaccines every week day, compared to vaccines administered on weekends. As other states begin to prepare for 24/7 vaccination clinics, we urge your administration to ensure vaccines are being administered at the highest capacity possible every day of the week. COVID-19 does not stop on holidays and weekends, nor should our vaccination efforts.

In addition to the lack of consistency in vaccination administration, it is a concern that eligibility and prioritization standards inside Phase 1A are not being adhered to uniformly throughout the state. While our assisted living homes wait to receive vaccines, health systems have already vaccinated employees who have been working remotely since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are also reports that hospitals have vaccinated employees who do not work with patients, and therefore,

should not qualify for Phase 1A eligibility. Meanwhile, there are unaffiliated healthcare employees and first responders throughout the state who are still desperately waiting for a vaccine.

Another example of this breakdown can be found by looking to the school systems. Just yesterday, Janesville School District announced they were closing on January 22, in order to vaccinate over 1,300 of their employees. Not only are schools not inside Phase 1A, but your administration has yet to officially determine who will qualify under Phase 1B. It's clear there is a breakdown in adherence to Phase 1A principles, and this must be addressed as your administration expands eligibility into Phase 1B. The bureaucracy surrounding the decision making for Phase 1B is confusing vaccinators and the general public. There needs to be clear and immediate guidance for Phase 1B eligibility as well as prioritization inside vaccine phases, which prioritizes administering vaccines to vulnerable populations first.

Given the complexity and magnitude of the COVID-19 vaccination effort, no one is expecting a perfect rollout. It is important to learn from the missteps in the initial stages of the vaccination rollout and improve upon them. However, your continued defense of the status quo and denial of ongoing issues demonstrates a lack of leadership. Without change, these failures will persist. It is our hope that you urgently act on our concerns to ensure our state is able to vaccinate at its maximum capacity, ensure vulnerable populations are prioritized, and have a system in place to communicate eligibility standards to vaccinators and the general public as vaccine supply increases.

Every vaccine administered puts our state one step closer to re-opening businesses, getting kids back into the classrooms, reuniting families who have been socially distant for too long, and most importantly, protecting the health of our constituents. It is urgent that you act to ensure vaccines are administered effectively.

Sincerely,



Alberta Darling  
8<sup>th</sup> Senate District



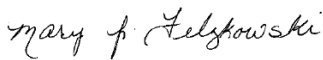
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33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District



André Jacque  
1<sup>st</sup> Senate District



Dale Kooyenga  
5<sup>th</sup> Senate District



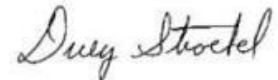
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12<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Joan Ballweg  
14<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Roger Roth  
19<sup>th</sup> Senate District



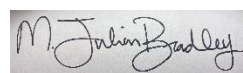
Duey Stroebel  
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Kathy Bernier  
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Patrick Testin  
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